

THE MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN,
WILLIAM TRELEASE, DIRECTOR.

ASSISTANTS:

BOTANY,—A. S. HITCHCOCK.

HORTICULTURE,—J. C. DUFFEY.

JAMES GURNEY, HEAD GARDENER.

ST. LOUIS, MO., July 6th, 1890.

Dear Dr. Watson.

your letter of June 27th in hand. I was very glad to have you speak of the subject of nomenclature. It is a subject in which I am much interested but one in which I have little experience and upon which I have taken no definite stand. My first intention was to follow the manual so far as my list of Ames flora was concerned. But I was anxious to become familiar with books, with the ins & outs of nomenclature so I adopted the method of which I spoke. I was not quite ready to adopt the earlier specific name but have hunted it up & indicated it so far as I could.

Our library is comparatively small. We have been putting about \$500, a month on it and are gradually getting things together but there are many important works that are not in the market. I have arranged & catalogued the books & pamphlets (including the George Engelmann Library) & have obtained some experience that way. I have laid out for mounting & distributed for the Engelmann herbarium 900 obtained some

experience that way. We keep five months at work. But I have always had a great desire to go to Harvard. It has seemed like a herculean task. I am interested in systematic botany & I have always felt as if I ought to have the experience which comes from being in the large library & herbarium there & its acquaintance with the curator. I hope my wishes may be gratified sometime.

Please pardon the digression. Yes I have been able to appreciate the fact that it is often very difficult to settle on the synonymy of a species. In this respect I feel under very great obligation to you. I hope you will not think me ungrateful or headstrong because I have, ^{taken} course contrary to your expressed opinion in many cases. I think what you say in regard to the fixity of a name is a strong point. I notice that Dr. Gray in his review of *Violaceum*, speaks of *Viola obliqua*, still being prior to *V. emarginata* C. Ait. in consequence of which it former name should stand if kept as a distinct species. From this (& some other examples) I suspect that he was in favor of enforcing the principles of priority if there were no doubt as to identity.

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ST. LOUIS, MO., 189—

I have used *Griselinia* Col. Pl. Cub. for Wright's plants but some of the names I have not yet found - but probably will. It would be a convenience if there were a list of consecutive numbers with the names.
Griggs & Berlandier's plants I name as best I can or not at all. Some are in recent monographs - some I dig out - some I can compare - the others go into *Ingenierorum*. Lindheimer's & Endliss's are mostly named.

As Luck would have it, I found the reference to *Ardis leucophaea* Nutt. soon after I wrote. The portion containing it was not bound in with the vol. of names, but was separate in an unindexed vol. of bound pamphlets (Engelm. Lib.). In regard to the generic names of which I speak I referred to *Castalia* for *Nymphaea*, *Nymphaea* for *buckneri*, *Hiemaria* for *Cayna*. I did not intend to go into generic names but so much has been said about these lately & there seems to be such good reasons for adopting them that I have done so.

I was much interested in the two species

of *Diospyrinium*. They will grow wild here &
I have seen growing in the garden. They are
quite distinct in habit, seeds etc.

Yours Very truly
A. S. Hitchcock